WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Strike by engineers and pilots of Indian Airlines

*162. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARHAGAVAN: SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Line Engineers and Pilots in the Indian Airlines went on strike recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of flights delayed/cancelled/dislocated due to this strike especially from Santa Cruz, Bombay;

(d) the losses suffered, if any; and

(e) the remedial measures taken to prevent such strikes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Aircraft maintenance engineers of Indian Airlines had resorted to a "go slow" in the first week of October, 1991 on the issue of parity in pay with maintenance engineers of Air India. Further some pilots reported sick on the 3rd and 4th of November, 1991.

(c) A total of 398 flights were delayed. Two flights from Bombay were cancelled. 13 other flights were combined into 6 flights and one flights was withdrawn.

(d) It is difficult to estimate precisely the loss, particularly arising from delayed flights.

(e) The issue of parity in pay scales stands referred to the National Industrial Tribunal. The management is also committed to enforce discipline and maintain good industrial relations through close inter-action with workers.

Trains without Brake-Van for Guards

*163. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many trains run without the brake van for guards;

(b) whether this practice jeopardises the safety of passengers; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). No passenger train runs without brake-van. However, due to operational exigencies, goods trains are sometimes run without brake-van in exceptional circumstances. Whenever the goods trains are run without brake-van, the safety precautions prescribed as per extant rules are followed to ensured safety. Goods brake-van are being manufactured regularly to provide adequate numbers to run all goods trains with brake-vans.

Homoeopathic Medicines

*168. DR. C. SILVERRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacture of substandard drugs has marred the progress of homoeopathic system of medicine in the country; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). No, Sir. While the Homoeopathic System of Medicine has made considerable progress, the facilities for testing of drugs have been developed only recently and instances of drugs both indigenous and imported not conforming to prescribed standards have come to notice.

The following action has been taken by the Government to improve the quality of Homoeopathy drugs being manufactured in the country:-

i) Manufacture and sale of Homoeopathy medicines have been brought under the purview of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 in 1969.

ii) Homoeopathy Pharmacopoea Laboratory has been established to lay down standards for Homoeopathy medicines and to carry out tests. Action to further strengthen the laboratory through provision of sophisticated equipment is being taken.

iii) Homoeopathy Pharmacopoea Committee constituted by the Government has prescribed standards for 606 drugs and these have been published under Homoeopathic Parmacopoea of India. Standards for another 104 drugs are under publication.

iv) Instructions to State Drug Controller are issued by Drug Controller of India to take appropriate action under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act whenever sub-standard drugs are detected.

Singing of National Anthem and National Song

*170. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether singing of National Anthem and National Song has been discontinued in some educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to make singing of National Anthem and National Song in all schools compulsory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). Some reports have been received that the practice of collective singing of National Anthem every day in schools has been discontinued or limited to a few occasions in some schools. Apathy is likely to be the main reason for the discontinuance.

(c) and (d). The policy of the Government on the singing of National Anthem has been that there should be community singing of the National Anthem in all schools every day. Orders regarding community singing of national Anthem in all schools of the country have been issued by the Govt. of India from time to time. Most recently, in October, 1991, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Education) addressed all the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governors to issue necessary directives for singing of National Anthem in schools. However, no instructions have been